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Local Boundary Commission  
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Local Boundary Commission Members:

This letter is in regards to the recommendations being made by the Local Boundary Commission regarding the formation of a Prince of Wales Island Borough.

I am a 43 year old Haida Native, small business owner, mother, and wife. I always had the dream of living in Kasaan and I have been a resident here for almost 9 years. My mother was born here and my NaNa was born here, so for me it is coming home.

Chapter 3 of the report that the Local Boundary Commission put out paints a picture of a prospering economy on Prince of Wales. Page 34, subpart (f) line 14 and 15 says, there are salmon hatcheries in ALL communities, there is only 1 hatchery located in Klawock. We both know what the timber industry is like now and lines 31 through 34 states that there are a number of small sawmills specializing in cedar products. These small sawmills are run by families trying to make a living, and are barely getting by. The mill located in Kasaan has been closed for almost 2 years. As for the fishing industry, I see boats coming in Kasaan Bay but they're not from Prince of Wales, they take our crab, shrimp, and fish and we don't see any \$ from it. Page 35 line 8 says Ketchikan Pulp company, are they not gone? Does Coffman Cove still have a Major log transfer site? Line 20 same page, Thome Bay no longer has a major log transfer site, KPC is no longer. Line 37, there are no commercial fishermen in Kasaan. What I am trying to say here, without going through the whole 149 pages in this letter is, that the people of Prince of Wales can not afford a Borough we could not sustain a Borough, and we do not want one.

However I feel that there are alternatives, I understand that the main reason for this push for a Borough is because of the 4 school districts located here. It does have a negative impact on our State Budget. I feel we should combine these 4 school districts and save the State some money. I can imagine what a savings it would be, with just the Superintendents salaries alone. It never did make sense to me.

Thank you for taking this issue into consideration.

Respectfully,



Audrey L. Escoffon